

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SINGAP 03333 261051Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12 EB-08 OES-09 /109 W
-----061010 270634Z/17

R 260910Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 780
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 3333

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, ASEAN, SN, US, VN
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL ON VIETNAMESE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER'S
VISITS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. STRAITS TIMES OF JULY 26
CARRIED FOLLOWING EDITORIAL ON SRV DEP FON MIN PHAN
HIEN'S RECENT FOREIGN VISITS.

2. "NOT THE SAME.
"VIETNAME IS STRIVING HARD TO MAKE DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN ITSELF AND ASEAN APPEAR NARROWER THAN THEY
ACTUALLY ARE. THE SIGNALS STARTED AROUND THE TIME
OF THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN THAILAND
AND THEY HAVEGROWN STRONGER SINCE. THE VISITS BY
THE VIETNAMESE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. PHAN HIEN,
TO JAPAN, AND LATER TO SINGAPORE, NOW TO MALAYSIA AFTER
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SINGAP 03333 261051Z

COVERING AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ARE ALL IN AID OF
HANOI'S NEW POLICY OF CONCILIATION. IT IS BECOMING
PART OF THE CONVENTIONAL WISDOM THAT VIETNAM IS
VEERING TOWARDS AN OSTENSIBLY MORE REASONABLE LINE
BECAUSE OF ITS CONFLICTS WITH CHINA AND KAMPUCHEA. THIS IS
STATING THE OBVIOUS, BUT WHAT IS NOT SO CLEAR IS THE MEANING
OF HANOI'S EXERCISE OF THE SOVIET OPTION, AFTER

JOINING COMECON. THE RUSSIANS HAVE COME OUT AUDIBLY IN SUPPORT OF THE CURRENT VIETNAMESE THINKING ON SOUTH-EAST ASIA, JUST AS MUCH AS THE CHINESE HAVE UNEQUIVOCALLY CONDEMNED IT. PEKING SAYS HANOI IS PLAYING THE STALKING HORSE FOR MOSCOW.

"IN TROTTING OUT THE AMIABLE MR. PHAN HIEN THE VIETNAMESE WANT ASEAN COUNTRIES TO BE PERSUADED OF HANOI'S SUDDEN FRIENDSHIP, IN PARTICULAR ITS PROPOSAL FOR A ZONE OF PEACE AND NEUTRALITY. AT FIRST BLUSH THIS MAY LOOK THE SAME ANIMAL AS ASEAN'S OWN ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY, BUT IN FACT IT IS NOT. WHEN THERE WAS ADVERSE REACTION TO THE TERM "GENUINE INDEPENDENCE" IN VIETNAM'S ORIGINAL FORMULA, IT WAS QUICKLY DROPPED, SHOWING HOW KEEN HANOI IS TO PROJECT A FAÇADE OF COMMONALITY. THE VIETNAMESE CONCEPT IS WOOLLY, EVEN MORE SO THAN ASEAN'S; THEY HAVE NOT DEFINED THE DETAILS AND CONDITIONS OF THEIR IDEA, WHEREAS ASEAN, OVER THE YEARS, HAS WORKED OUT A MASS OF SPECIFICS AND QUALIFICATIONS ON THE ZONE. WOULD VIETNAM ACCEPT THAT CHINA SHOULD BE A NECESSARY QUARANTINE FOR THE ZONE, FOR EXAMPLE? THE MALAYSIANS, WITH WHOM THE VIETNAMESE ARE TALKING ON THIS SUBJECT, HAVE ALSO MENTIONED THE NEED FOR "NON-SUBVERSION" IN ADDITION TO NON-INTERFERENCE. CLEARLY, A ROSE BY ANOTHER NAME MAY NOT SMELL AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SINGAP 03333 261051Z

SWEET, ESPECIALLY IF IT IS FROM VIETNAM." END
UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LOU COMMENT. EDITORIAL ECHOES THE COLD-EYED AND WARY REACTION TO FRIENDLY OVERTURES FROM SRV THAT WE HAVE HEARD FROM GOS OFFICIALS. WHILE PERHAPS SHORT ON ANALYSIS OF SRV MOTIVES IN COURTING ASEAN AND OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES, IT REFLECTS VERY WELL SINGAPORE'S DEEP SUSPICION OF THESE MOTIVES. WE UNDERSTAND FROM MFA THAT GOS TRADE MISSION IN HANOI WILL BE OPENED BEFORE END OF YEAR IF ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE WORKED OUT. WE WERE ALSO TOLD THAT GOS REQUESTED DIPLOMATIC STATUS FOR TRADE MISSION, WHICH WILL BE HEADED BY MFA OFFICER, LARGEY FOR LOGISTICAL ADVANTAGES SUCH STATUS MIGHT YIELD IN DEALING WITH SRV BUREAUCRACY. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT GOS IS INTERESTED IN OPENING MISSION LESS FOR ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN TRADE (ALTHOUGH WE WOULD EXPECT SINGAPORE TO BENEFIT FROM ENTREPOT TRADE AND PERHAPS FROM SUPPLYING OIL FIELD SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT IF U.S. TRADE EMBARGO IS LIFTED) THAN TO OBTAIN FIRSTHAND INFORMATION ON POLITICAL

DEVELOPMENTS IN VIETNAM.

INGRAHAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SINGAP03333
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780307-0930
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780718/aaaaapdd.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 62f8576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1879285
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDITORIAL ON VIETNAMESE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISITS
TAGS: PDIP, SN, US, VN, ASEAN, (PHAN HIEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/62f8576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014